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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR CUDABACK:    So you are recognized now to close, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS:    Thank you.    Mr. President, members of the Legislature, fortunately, when it comes to this bill, enough people were looking at it so I do not believe that the interests of the public are being harmed.    But suppose there were not people looking at it.    It would have fallen to me to take the time to go through every page and word in this bill which, by the way, on Senator Schrock's amendment, I have done.    But I would be lying if I said that I am confident that I understand every concept, precept provision in Senator Schrock's amendment.    Some of the discussion that I had this morning was not just to deal with this bill and not just to take time.    I'm able to use a bill which is not controversial to try to bring other things to light, or at least put them in the record--the kind of work we as a Legislature ought to be doing; the concern we should have, especially when you have a bill drafted by lawyers.    Lawyers are interested in the welfare of their clients.    The lawyers who drafted this bill do not have the public or the ratepayers as their client.    The client of the lawyers who work on a bill like this is OPPD.    The public hopes that OPPD's board and the administrators and others who are to carry out the will, as expressed by the board, will do the right thing.    When have the public been able to completely trust any bureaucracy to do the right thing?    When there are a lot of people in an association or organization, some will have ability; others won't.    Some will be devoted to doing their job in the proper way; others won't.    When we're dealing with what Senator Bourne described as projects totalling hundreds of millions of dollars, perhaps, somebody has to watch the watchers.    In this case, you could say that the board of OPPD constitutes the watchers.    The Legislature must watch them.    OPPD's reach, I think, goes beyond the city limits of Omaha.    Even if that reach doesn't, whenever something impacts a large number of the citizens of this state, the Legislature should take an interest.    I take an interest in a lot of things that don't impact my district at all, and many times my interest puts me on a collision course with what is being presented.    But imagine for a moment, if you will, if every senator took as seriously as I do all of the things that we deal with.    You know who's been on this floor every single day, dealing learnedly and well with every issue that has come